

Can He Handle The CIA?

Turner Known As Tough Leader, Intellectual, Innovator

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WASHINGTON — As president of the Naval War College from 1972 to 1974, Admiral Stansfield Turner kept a sign on his door that read: "I need one good idea a day."

It was characteristic of a man whom his associates and friends describe as endlessly curious about philosophy, theater, opera, international politics and military affairs.

"He is quite a remarkable military officer, almost an original," said a war college associate, and F.J. Bing, another professor at the college, spoke of Carter's latest nominee to head the CIA as "highly imaginative and extremely energetic."

No date has been set for hearings before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Turner, now commander-in-chief of Allied Forces in southern Europe. Carter's first choice for the CIA post, Theodore Sorensen, withdrew from consideration in the face of strong Senate opposition, particularly among conservatives.

Both Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd, D-W. Va., and Minority Leader Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., said they know of no strong opposition to Turner.

Stan Turner was an all-round student of the world as early as his high school days in Highland Park, Ill.

He also was near the top of his class wherever he studied.

"There is one side to Turner which a naval associate described as "breezy and informal" and another which he said made one "not mistake for one minute that he is an admiral."

The associate from his days at the Newport, R.I., war college described the "shakeup politics" he instituted on his arrival. His first day there he told the students to "feel right at home" and show their

families around the campus. After this lulling start he said: "Report back to the first class in one hour."

The shakeup proceeded with his demand that the college serve not as "a year off" from naval duty, but as a program involving tough examinations in strategy, tactics, analysis and management.

These practices and his own penchant for a heavy intellectual diet did not endear Turner to all of his peers.

However, he won respect at Newport for innovations, such as a series of humanities lectures by outsiders, including his friend, Herman Wouk, the author of the Caine Mutiny. An evening at the Turner household, a colleague recalled, was likely to include a politician or a historian.

One of his guests at a college seminar was the Georgia governor, Jimmy Carter, who was his

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Admiral Stansfield Turner: Former Carter classmate

classmate at the Naval Academy in the accelerated class of 1947, which finished a year early.

Turner had come to the Navy by way of the Naval Reserve at Amherst College, which he attended from 1941 to 1943. He finished 25th in a class of 820, served on a carrier and a cruiser and then won a Rhodes Scholarship. At Oxford he studied philosophy, politics and economics, receiving a masters degree in arts in 1950.

He was on destroyers during the Korean War, during which he earned a Bronze Star and other service medals. He also commanded a guided missile frigate in the Vietnam conflict. His shore duty included two tours in defense systems analysis at the Pentagon. He was appointed commander-in-chief of Allied Forces in Southern Europe in August 1975.

At Annapolis he made the football team despite his relatively short stature and played left guard. He continues to enjoy sports — playing tennis and squash and swimming when he has a chance. His classmates remembered his "corny puns" in the yearbook, a habit he appears to have retained.

He married the former Patricia Busy Whitney in 1953. Their son, Geoffrey, is a Navy lieutenant stationed in Maryland, and their daughter, Laurel, is married. The Turners recently became grandparents.

Turner does not smoke, drinks rarely and works long days, his associates report.

In the current national debate on international strategic questions and the balance of forces between the Soviet Union and the United States, Turner's contemplative mind has paced him firmly on the side opposite "the quantifiers" among U.S. policymakers who have attempted in recent years to measure strengths in numbers of ships, missiles and planes. He prefers to judge long-range trends, as his article on "The Naval Balance" in the January edition of Foreign Affairs illustrates.

He wrote: "Focus on trends rather than statistics will make the dialogue on the naval balance more substantial and constructive. Our survival and that of our allies in war depend on the vital sea links between us, and these are ensured largely by our naval power."

"A sensible approach will be to ask not, 'Who is ahead?' but to determine whether our naval forces in hand, considering the other forces on the planet, can carry out our national purpose — which is principally to keep the peace if we can, and if we cannot, to protect ourselves from storms, and to help our friends protect themselves."